

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652 ADS DECLAS 9/13/74

TAGS: EAID, MT, FR

SUBJ: MALTA FRENCH AID

REF: VALLETTA 1220, PARIS 12606

1. PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVEMENT FRANCO-MALTESE RELATIONS SINCE PM MINTOFF'S VISIT PARIS LAST MAY REFLECTED IN ARRIVAL SEPTEMBER 12 THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM FRENCH ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY. DELEGATION HEADED BY RENE JOMIER, MANAGER FRENCH ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY, AND INCLUDES TWO ENGINEERS WHO, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WILL STUDY MALTESE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THE SHORT SUPPLY OF WATER, ELECTRICITY IS ONE OF THE SCARCE FACTORS OF PRODUCTION WHICH HAS INHIBITED MALTA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION. UNFORTUNATELY, DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN LOCAL AMERICAN INDUSTRIALISTS AND OTHERS WITH MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT HYZLER HAVE THUS FAR NOT REFLECTED AN ADEQUATE APPRECIATION FOR THIS PROBLEM. THE FRENCH MAY HAVE MORE SUCCESS.

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2. ACCORDING FRENCH THIRD SECRETARY DUCLOS, GOF ALSO HAS RESIDENT

EXPERT WHO IS MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVEMENT LOCAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM. IN THE MEANTIME, NEGOTIATIONS OVER FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE

NEWLY FORMER PIONEER CORPS REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE.

3. OTHER FORMS OF FRENCH ASSISTANCE INCLUDE: A TEAM OF FRENCH LANGUAGE TEACHERS; A SECOND DONATION OF FIVE THOUSAND TONS OF WHEAT; A MANGEMENT SURVEY OF THE MALTA DRYDOCKS WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED; AND A 25-MINUTE COLOR TELEVISION FEATURE ON MALTA, FILMED BY ORTF, THE FRENCH TELEVISION NETWORK, WHICH IS TO SUPPORT A FIVE MONTH ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED BY THE MALTA TOURIST

BOARD NEXT NOVEMBER IN FRANCE AND FRENCH SPEAKING SWITZERLAND.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY RECENTLY STRENGTHENING BY ASSIGNMENT SENIOR COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR BERNARD LEFORT, WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MALTA DRYDOCKS AND INTERESTED FRENCH PARTIES AS WELL AS MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND FRENCH SUBSIDIARY OF MOTOROLA. ACCORDING TO LEFORT, MOTOROLA MAY ESTABLISH THIRD EUROPEAN PLANT (OTHERS IN TOULOUSE AND SCOTLAND) IN MALTA WHICH WOULD EMPLOY INITIALLY SEVEN HUNDRED WITH FIGURE GOING UP TO FIFTEEN HUNDRED OR TWO THOUSAND AFTER APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR.
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